

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 54 spanning lines 31-33 with the following amended paragraph:

The sense strand can further comprise a cap on its 3' end. Preferably, the cap is an inverted deoxythymidine (idT) or two consecutive 2'-O-methyl modified bases at the end positions (nucleotides 18 and 19).

Please replace the paragraph on page 69 spanning lines 14-26 with the following amended paragraph:

The siRNA duplexes of certain embodiments of the eleventh embodiment of this invention include a phosphate moiety at the 5'-end of the antisense strand. This phosphate is introduced chemically as the final coupling to the antisense sequence. The required phosphoramidite derivative (*bis*(cyanoethyl)-N,N-diisopropylamino phosphoramidite) is synthesized as follows in brief: phosphorous trichloride is treated one equivalent of N,N-diisopropylamine in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran in the presence of excess triethylamine. Then, two equivalents of 3-hydroxypropionitrile are added and allowed to react completely. Finally, the product is purified by chromatography. Post-purification packaging of the phosphoramidite is carried out using the procedures described previously for the standard nucleoside phosphoramidites. Similarly, the incorporation of the phosphoramidite at the 5'-end of the antisense strand is accomplished by applying the same four-step cycle described previously for the standard nucleoside phosphoramidites.

Please replace the paragraph on page 93, spanning lines 6-13, with the following amended paragraph:

In other embodiments of the present invention, any of the compositions can comprise a conjugate. The conjugate can be selected from the group consisting of amino acids, peptides, polypeptides, proteins, sugars, carbohydrates, lipids, polymers, nucleotides, polynucleotides, and combinations thereof. The conjugate can be cholesterol or PEG. The conjugate can further comprise a label, such as, for example, a fluorescent label. The fluorescent label can be selected from the group consisting of [[of]] TAMRA, BODIPY, Cy3, Cy5, fluorescein, and Dabsyl. Alternatively, the fluorescent label can be any fluorescent label known in the art.

Please replace Table 4, beginning on page 105 after line 8 and continuing to page 107, with the following amended Table 4:

| Table 4: Constructs for 2'-Deoxy Modifications/fLUC | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Identifier | Sequence | SEQ. ID NO. |
| fLUC5-AS 3D19 | uuuaugagggaucucucdudgdadt dt | 27 |
| fLUC5-AS 3D16 | uuuaugagggaucucucdudgdadt dt | 28 |
| fLUC5-AS 3D13 | uuuaugagggaucdudcdugadt dt | 29 |
| fLUC5-AS 3D10 | uuuaugaggdadudcucucugadt dt | 30 |
| fLUC5-AS 3D7 | uuuaugdgdgdgaucucucugadt dt | 31 |
| fLUC5-AS 3D4 | uuudadudgagggaucucucugadt dt | 32 |
| fLUC5-AS 3D1 | dududuaugagggaucucucugadt dt | 33 |
| fLUC5-AS 2D19 | uuuaugagggaucucucudgdadt dt | 34 |
| fLUC5-AS 2D17 | uuuaugagggaucucucdudgdadt dt | 35 |
| fLUC5-AS 2D15 | uuuaugagggaucucdudcugadt dt | 36 |
| fLUC5-AS 2D13 | uuuaugagggaucdudcucugadt dt | 37 |
| fLUC5-AS 2D11 | uuuaugaggadudcucucugadt dt | 38 |
| fLUC5-AS 2D9 | uuuaugagdgdgaucucucugadt dt | 39 |
| fLUC5-AS 2D7 | uuuaugdgdgggaucucucugadt dt | 40 |
| fLUC5-AS 2D5 | uuuadudgagggaucucucugadt dt | 41 |
| fLUC5-AS 2D3 | uududaugagggaucucucugadt dt | 42 |
| fLUC5-AS 2D1 | duduuaugagggaucucucugadt dt | 43 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D19 | uuuaugagggaucucucugdadt dt | 44 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D18 | uuuaugagggaucucucudgadt dt | 45 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D17 | uuuaugagggaucucucdugadt dt | 46 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D16 | uuuaugagggaucucudcugadt dt | 47 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D15 | uuuaugagggaucucducugadt dt [[2]] | 48 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D14 | uuuaugagggaucudcucugadt dt | [[48]] <u>49</u> |
| fLUC5-AS 1D13 | uuuaugagggaucducucugadt dt | 50 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D12 | uuuaugagggaudcucucugadt dt | 51 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D11 | uuuaugagggaducucucugadt dt | 52 |

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----|
| fLUC5-AS 1D10 | uuuaugaggdaucucucugadtdt | 53 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D9 | uuuaugagdgaucucucugadtdt | 54 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D8 | uuuaugadggaucucucugadtdt | 55 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D7 | uuuaugdaggauucucucugadtdt | 56 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D6 | uuuaudgaggauucucucugadtdt | 57 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D5 | uuuadugaggauucucucugadtdt | 58 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D4 | uuudaugaggauucucucugadtdt | 59 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D3 | uuduaugaggauucucucugadtdt | 60 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D2 | uduuaugaggauucucucugadtdt | 61 |
| fLUC5-AS 1D1 | duuuauaggauucucucugadtdt | 62 |
| fLUC5-S 3D19 | ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt | 63 |
| fLUC5-S 3D16 | ucagagagauccucadudadaadtdt | 64 |
| fLUC5-S 3D13 | ucagagagauccdudcdauaaaadtdt | 65 |
| fLUC5-S 3D10 | ucagagagadudcdcucaaaaadtdt | 66 |
| fLUC5-S 3D7 | ucagagdgdgauccucauaaaadtdt | 67 |
| fLUC5-S 3D4 | ucadgdadgagauccucauaaaadtdt | 68 |
| fLUC5-S 3D1 | dudcdagagagauccucauaaaadtdt | 69 |
| fLUC5-S 2D19 | ucagagagauccucauadadadtdt | 70 |
| fLUC5-S 2D17 | ucagagagauccucaudadaadtdt | 71 |
| fLUC5-S 2D15 | ucagagagauccucdaduaaaadtdt | 72 |
| fLUC5-S 2D13 | ucagagagauccdudcauaaaadtdt | 73 |
| fLUC5-S 2D11 | ucagagagaudcdcucauaaaadtdt | 74 |
| fLUC5-S 2D9 | ucagagagdauccucauaaaadtdt | 75 |
| fLUC5-S 2D7 | ucagagdgdgauccucauaaaadtdt | 76 |
| fLUC5-S 2D5 | ucagdgdgagauccucauaaaadtdt | 77 |
| fLUC5-S 2D3 | ucdadgagagauccucauaaaadtdt | 78 |
| fLUC5-S 2D1 | dudcagagagauccucauaaaadtdt | 79 |
| fLUC5-S 1D19 | ucagagagauccucauaadadtdt | 80 |
| fLUC5-S 1D18 | ucagagagauccucauadaadtdt | 81 |
| fLUC5-S 1D17 | ucagagagauccucaudaaadtdt | 82 |
| fLUC5-S 1D16 | ucagagagauccucaduuaadtdt | 83 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| fLUC5-S 1D15 | ucagagagauccucdauaaadttdt | 84 |
| fLUC5-S 1D14 | ucagagagauccudcauaaaadttdt | 85 |
| fLUC5-S 1D13 | ucagagagauccducauaaaadttdt | 86 |
| fLUC5-S 1D12 | ucagagagauccdcucauaaaadttdt | 87 |
| fLUC5-S 1D11 | ucagagagaudccucauaaaadttdt | 88 |
| fLUC5-S 1D10 | ucagagagaduccucauaaaadttdt | 89 |
| fLUC5-S 1D9 | ucagagagdauccucauaaaadttdt | 90 |
| fLUC5-S 1D8 | ucagagadgauccucauaaaadttdt | 91 |
| fLUC5-S 1D7 | ucagagdagauccucauaaaadttdt | 92 |
| fLUC5-S 1D6 | ucagadgagauccucauaaaadttdt | 93 |
| fLUC5-S 1D5 | ucagdagagauccucauaaaadttdt | 94 |
| fLUC5-S 1D4 | ucadgagagauccucauaaaadttdt | 95 |
| fLUC5-S 1D3 | ucdagagagauccucauaaaadttdt | 96 |
| fLUC5-S 1D2 | udcagagagauccucauaaaadttdt | 97 |
| fLUC5-S 1D1 | ducagagagauccucauaaaadttdt | 98 |
| A "d" indicates that the nucleotide following the "d" is deoxy at the 2' position. | | |